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EXAMINER

REILLY, SEAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/042,831	Applicant(s) LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner Sean Reilly	Art Unit 2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment and request for reconsideration filed on November 22, 2006. Claims 1-21 are presented for further examination. All independent claims have been amended. This office action is made **NON-FINAL** due to the new double patenting rejections set forth.

Response to Arguments

In response to Applicant's request for reconsideration filed on November 22, 2006, the following factual arguments are noted:

- a. Schoof failed to disclose various elements in the attendant electronic equipment.
- b. The prior art of record failed to disclose the new limitation requiring a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment, thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment.

In considering (a), Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's argument. Foremost, Applicant's amendments have clearly defined that the various claimed features are either part of the attendant electronic equipment or the conference management server.

Applicant contends that various features of Schoof system are only found in the conference controller and not in each attendant terminal as Applicant now claims. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Schoof disclosed that any of the various communication terminals (i.e. 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, and 130) can participate in a conference (Col 5, line 62 – Col 6, line 4).

Art Unit: 2153

In addition Schoof disclosed that **any terminal can be equipped to serve as a conference controller and any of the terminals can be designated as controller of the conference** (Col 5, line 62 – Col 6, line 4). In other words all of the terminals (attendant terminals) can have the conference controller software installed and one of the terminals will be designated as the controller and will actually execute the conference controller software for controlling the conference. Thus, contrary to Applicant's assertions, the terminals of Schoof's system have "the ability to control proceedings" and thus meet each limitation of Applicant's claimed invention.

In considering (b), Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's assertion and maintains the McNerney discloses such an interface. McNerney disclosed point and click interface including a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment (e.g. see figure 4 and Col 6, lines 33-44, where the user may select the generating electronic equipment from icons on the interface, e.g. icons 603-607, the equipment can include any one of file drawers 603, mail box 604, video player 605, blackboard 606, projector screen 607, and the like, see Col 6, lines 11-15), and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment (e.g. the selected content is then output in the virtual room, on the conference table for instance, Col 6, lines 55-58, see inter alia Col 6, line 48- Col 7, line 16), thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment (ie. both the icons and the output are displayed in the virtual reality mixed media meeting room). McNerney further disclosed that such an interface is beneficial to users since they no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Art Unit: 2153

Applicant's invention to incorporate McNerney's conferencing interface scheme within the combined Schoof and Minnenman system, so users no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation in a conference (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-21 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent 7,016,935 and

Art Unit: 2153

Schoof, II (U.S. Patent Number 5,440,624; hereinafter Schoof) and Minnenman et al. (A Confederation of Tools for Capturing and Accessing Collaborative Activity; hereinafter Minnenman). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other. Refer to the tables and remarks below for specific claim mappings and further explanation.

U.S. Patent # 7,016,935	Instant Application # 10/042831
1. A network conferencing system comprising: an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of the presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment operated by users attending a conference, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment via a communication network,	2. A network conferencing system comprising: an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of the presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment via a communication network,
Each of the attendant electronic equipment-	Each of the attendant electronic equipment-

comprising:	comprising:
An information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network,	An information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network,
A presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment,	A presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment,
An authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference	An authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference
An equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network	An equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network
A display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit,	A display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit,

Wherein the display unit has a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment, thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment	Wherein the display unit has a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment, thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment
A proceedings control unit for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit	A proceedings control unit for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit

The '935 claims failed to specifically recite the management server containing a unit for inputting and outputting presentation data presented by the presentation unit, a unit preparing conference management information, a unit for storing presentation data, or a unit for arranging the conference management information. In a similar conferencing system, Schoof disclosed a conference management server comprising:

- input/output means for inputting presentation data presented by the presentation function using the output electronic equipment, from the attendant electronic equipment, then outputting the presentation data to the output electronic equipment, and for inputting material data generated by the generating electronic equipment, then outputting the material data to the output electronic equipment (Col 8, lines 4-6);

Art Unit: 2153

- ❑ conference management information preparation means for preparing conference management information relating to the conference (Rules, Col 7, lines 21-45);
- ❑ storage means (Col 11, lines 10-15) for associating the presentation data presented by the output electronic equipment with *information indicating the presentation data presented* (keyed item – defined as any data defined to be associated with certain archived record data), generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the presentation data and the information, while associating the material data generated by the generating electronic equipment with the information indicating the material data presented, generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the material data and the information, and for storing the conference management information prepared by the conference management information preparation means (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10); and
- ❑ proceedings data preparation means (conference controller) for arranging the conference management information, the presentation data and the material data in accordance with information (keyed items) and thus preparing proceedings data (complete record of the proceedings stored in memory) (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to incorporate the above server features of Schoof within the '935 system so that conferences can be managed from a central location and thus a complete record of the conference can be efficiently saved and managed for reference by each user. Schoof however, failed to specifically recite that the stored presentation and material data is associated with *time information* indicating when the presentation data is presented. Nevertheless Schoof did disclose that a complete record of the conference is recorded and associated data items (keyed items) so a

Art Unit: 2153

recorded conference can later be reviewed using the keyed items (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10). However Schoof was silent as to any specific keyed items that should be used, thus one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to seek out useful keyed items to be associated with the stored data. In an analogous art, Minnenman discloses a conferencing system where presentation data from a conference is stored and associated with time information (Minnenman See indexing pgs 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate that time indexing features, disclosed by Minnenman, within the '935 and Schoof system as a keyed item, since Minnenman disclosed time information is a meaningful pointer used to access archived records (Minnenman See indexing on pgs 3 and 4).

Similar rationale applies to the other claims.

3. Claims 1-21 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-37 of copending Application No. 10/042,485 Schoof, II (U.S. Patent Number 5,440,624; hereinafter Schoof) and Minnenman et al. (A Confederation of Tools for Capturing and Accessing Collaborative Activity; hereinafter Minnenman) and McNerney et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,999,208; hereinafter McNerney). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other. Refer to the tables and remarks below for specific claim mappings and further explanation. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Co-pending Application # 10/042,485	Instant Application # 10/042831
<p>1. A network conferencing system comprising: an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of the presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment operated by users attending a conference, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment via a communication network,</p>	<p>2. A network conferencing system comprising: an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of the presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment via a communication network,</p>
<p>Each of the attendant electronic equipment-comprising:</p>	<p>Each of the attendant electronic equipment-comprising:</p>
<p>An information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network,</p>	<p>An information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network,</p>

A presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment,	A presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment,
An authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference	An authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference
An equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network	An equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network
A display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit,	A display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit,
A proceedings control unit for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit	A proceedings control unit for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit

The '935 claims failed to specifically recite the management server containing a unit for inputting and outputting presentation data presented by the presentation unit, a unit preparing

Art Unit: 2153

conference management information, a unit for storing presentation data, or a unit for arranging the conference management information. In a similar conferencing system, Schoof disclosed a conference management server comprising:

- ❑ input/output means for inputting presentation data presented by the presentation function using the output electronic equipment, from the attendant electronic equipment, then outputting the presentation data to the output electronic equipment, and for inputting material data generated by the generating electronic equipment, then outputting the material data to the output electronic equipment (Col 8, lines 4-6);
- ❑ conference management information preparation means for preparing conference management information relating to the conference (Rules, Col 7, lines 21-45);
- ❑ storage means (Col 11, lines 10-15) for associating the presentation data presented by the output electronic equipment with *information indicating the presentation data presented* (keyed item – defined as any data defined to be associated with certain archived record data), generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the presentation data and the information, while associating the material data generated by the generating electronic equipment with the information indicating the material data presented, generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the material data and the information, and for storing the conference management information prepared by the conference management information preparation means (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10); and
- ❑ proceedings data preparation means (conference controller) for arranging the conference management information, the presentation data and the material data in accordance with

Art Unit: 2153

information (keyed items) and thus preparing proceedings data (complete record of the proceedings stored in memory) (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to incorporate the above server features of Schoof within the '935 system so that conferences can be managed from a central location and thus a complete record of the conference can be efficiently saved and managed for reference by each user. Schoof however, failed to specifically recite that the stored presentation and material data is associated with *time information* indicating when the presentation data is presented. Nevertheless Schoof did disclose that a complete record of the conference is recorded and associated data items (keyed items) so a recorded conference can later be reviewed using the keyed items (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10). However Schoof was silent as to any specific keyed items that should be used, thus one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to seek out useful keyed items to be associated with the stored data. In an analogous art, Minnenman discloses a conferencing system where presentation data from a conference is stored and associated with time information (Minnenman See indexing pgs 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate that time indexing features, disclosed by Minnenman, within the '935 and Schoof system as a keyed item, since Minnenman disclosed time information is a meaningful pointer used to access archived records (Minnenman See indexing on pgs 3 and 4).

The '953 system, Schoof, and Minnenman all failed to specifically recite the display unit has a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment, thus providing the icon display of the generating

Art Unit: 2153

electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment. Nonetheless such an interface scheme was widely known in the art at the time of Applicant's invention, as evidenced by at least McNerney. In a similar conferencing system, McNerney disclosed point and click interface including a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment (e.g. see figure 4 and Col 6, lines 33-44, where the user may select the generating electronic equipment from icons on the interface, i.e. icons 603-607, the equipment can include any one of file drawers 603, mail box 604, video player 605, blackboard 606, projector screen 607, and the like, see Col 6, lines 11-15), and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment (e.g. the selected content is then output in the virtual room, on the conference table for instance, Col 6, lines 55-58, see inter alia Col 6, line 48- Col 7, line 16), thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment (i.e. both the icons and the output are displayed in the virtual reality mixed media meeting room). McNerney further disclosed that such an interface is beneficial to users since they no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to incorporate McNerney's conferencing interface scheme within the combined '953, Schoof, and Minnenman system, so users no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation in a conference (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39).

Similar rationale applies to the other claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoof, II (U.S. Patent Number 5,440,624; hereinafter Schoof) and McNerney et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,999,208; hereinafter McNerney).

5. Regarding claim 1, Schoof disclosed a network conferencing system in which an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation (Figure 1A, data, voice fax, and bridge terminals), a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment (Figure 1A, data, voice fax, and bridge terminals) (any of the attendees can generate and present data during the conference, see Col 3, lines 6-19 and Col 6, lines 54-63), a plurality of attendant electronic equipments (Figure 1A, any of the terminals), and a conference management server (Conference Controller, Col 5, line 62 – Col 6, line 4) connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments, are connected via a communication network (Figure 1A), each of the attendant electronic equipments having an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network (Col 3, lines 6-19), a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment (Col 3, lines 6-19 and 46-61), a presentation contents browsing function for

Art Unit: 2153

browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment (Col 4, lines 4-26), an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference (Col 4, lines 36-41), an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network (Col 3, lines 20-45), and a proceedings control function for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function (generating the complete archived record, Col 6, lines 64-68).

However, Schoof failed to specifically recite a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendees of the conference. Nevertheless it was well known at the time of the invention to display conference attendees as icons within electronic conferencing systems, as evidenced by McNerney. In an analogous conferencing system, McNerney discloses displaying conference attendees as icons within a virtually reality meeting room (See Figure 4) in order to provide a realistic conference room setting along with providing attendees the tools to identify both the speakers and their communication properties (McNerney Col 5, lines 20-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate that above teachings of McNerney within the system of Schoof, in order to provide a realistic conference room setting along with providing attendees the tools to identify both the speakers and their communication properties (McNerney Col 5, lines 20-44).

Schoof also failed to specifically recite the display unit has a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment, thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and

Art Unit: 2153

the icon display of the output electronic equipment. Nonetheless such an interface scheme was widely known in the art at the time of Applicant's invention, as evidenced by at least McNerney. McNerney disclosed point and click interface including a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment (e.g. see figure 4 and Col 6, lines 33-44, where the user may select the generating electronic equipment from icons on the interface, i.e. icons 603-607, the equipment can include any one of file drawers 603, mail box 604, video player 605, blackboard 606, projector screen 607, and the like, see Col 6, lines 11-15), and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment (e.g. the selected content is then output in the virtual room, on the conference table for instance, Col 6, lines 55-58, see inter alia Col 6, line 48- Col 7, line 16), thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment (i.e. both the icons and the output are displayed in the virtual reality mixed media meeting room). McNerney further disclosed that such an interface is beneficial to users since they no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to incorporate McNerney's conferencing interface scheme within the Schoof system, so users no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation in a conference (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39)

6. Claims 2-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoof, II (U.S. Patent Number 5,440,624; hereinafter Schoof) and Minnenman et al. (A

Confederation of Tools for Capturing and Accessing Collaborative Activity; hereinafter Minnenman) and McNerney et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,999,208; hereinafter McNerney).

7. Regarding claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, Schoof disclosed a network conferencing system in which an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation (Figure 1A, data, voice fax, and bridge terminals), a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment (Figure 1A, data, voice fax, and bridge terminals) (any of the attendees can generate and present data during the conference, see Col 3, lines 6-19 and Col 6, lines 54-63), a plurality of attendant electronic equipments (Figure 1A, any of the terminals), and a conference management server (Conference Controller, Col 5, line 62 – Col 6, line 4) connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments, are connected via a communication network (Figure 1A), each of the attendant electronic equipments having an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network (Col 3, lines 6-19), a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment (Col 3, lines 6-19 and 46-61), a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment (Col 4, lines 4-26), an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference (Col 4, lines 36-41), an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network

Art Unit: 2153

(Col 3, lines 20-45), and a proceedings control function for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function (generating the complete archived record, Col 6, lines 64-68),

- the conference management server comprising:
- input/output means for inputting presentation data presented by the presentation function using the output electronic equipment, from the attendant electronic equipment, then outputting the presentation data to the output electronic equipment, and for inputting material data generated by the generating electronic equipment, then outputting the material data to the output electronic equipment (Col 8, lines 4-6);
- conference management information preparation means for preparing conference management information relating to the conference (Rules, Col 7, lines 21-45);
- storage means (Col 11, lines 10-15) for associating the presentation data presented by the output electronic equipment with *information indicating the presentation data presented* (keyed item – defined as any data defined to be associated with certain archived record data), generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the presentation data and the information, while associating the material data generated by the generating electronic equipment with the information indicating the material data presented, generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the material data and the information, and for storing the conference management information prepared by the conference management information preparation means (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10); and
- proceedings data preparation means (conference controller) for arranging the conference management information, the presentation data and the material data in accordance with

information (keyed items) and thus preparing proceedings data (complete record of the proceedings stored in memory) (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10).

Schoof failed to specifically recite that the stored presentation and material data is associated with *time information* indicating when the presentation data is presented. Nevertheless Schoof did disclose that a complete record of the conference is recorded and associated data items (keyed items) so a recorded conference can later be reviewed using the keyed items (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10). However Schoof was silent as to any specific keyed items that should be used, thus one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to seek out useful keyed items to be associated with the stored data. In an analogous art, Minnenman discloses a conferencing system where presentation data from a conference is stored and associated with time information (Minnenman See indexing pgs 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate that time indexing features, disclosed by Minnenman, within the Schoof system as a keyed item, since Minnenman disclosed time information is a meaningful pointer used to access archived records (Minnenman See indexing on pgs 3 and 4).

Additionally, both Schoof and Minnenman failed to specifically recite a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendees of the conference. Nevertheless it was well known at the time of the invention to display conference attendees as icons within electronic conferencing systems, as evidenced by McNerney. In an analogous conferencing system, McNerney discloses displaying conference attendees as icons within a virtually reality meeting room (See Figure 4) in

Art Unit: 2153

order to provide a realistic conference room setting along with providing attendees the tools to identify both the speakers and their communication properties (McNerney Col 5, lines 20-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate that above teachings of McNerney within the combined system of Schoof and Minnenman, in order to provide a realistic conference room setting along with providing attendees the tools to identify both the speakers and their communication properties (McNerney Col 5, lines 20-44).

The Schoof and Minnenman also failed to specifically recite the display unit has a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment, thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment. Nonetheless such an interface scheme was widely known in the art at the time of Applicant's invention, as evidenced by at least McNerney. In a similar conferencing system, McNerney disclosed point and click interface including a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment (e.g. see figure 4 and Col 6, lines 33-44, where the user may select the generating electronic equipment from icons on the interface, i.e. icons 603-607, the equipment can include any one of file drawers 603, mail box 604, video player 605, blackboard 606, projector screen 607, and the like, see Col 6, lines 11-15), and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment (e.g. the selected content is then output in the virtual room, on the conference table for instance, Col 6, lines 55-58, see inter alia Col 6, line 48- Col 7, line 16), thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment (i.e. both the icons and the output are displayed in the virtual reality mixed media meeting room). McNerney

Art Unit: 2153

further disclosed that such an interface is beneficial to users since they no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to incorporate McNerney's conferencing interface scheme within the combined Schoof and Minnenman system, so users no longer need to be aware specific controls or keyboard entries to control their participation in a conference (McNerney Col 6, lines 29-39).

8. Regarding claims 3, 8, 13, and 18, Schoof discloses the storage means stores the format of the data generated by the generating electronic equipment, and the proceedings data preparation means arranges the data in accordance with the format stored in the storage means (keyed items, Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 10).

9. Regarding claims 4, 9, 14, and 19, Schoof discloses a camera device (Figure 1A, Component 112) for imaging the contents (e.g. video conferencing, Col 5, lines 45-46) of the conference is further connected with the communication network, and the storage means associates image data and audio data picked up by the camera device with time information indicating when the image data and audio data are picked up by the camera device and thus storing the image data and audio data and the time information (archived record Col 6, lines 64-66).

10. Regarding claims 5, 10, 15, and 20, Schoof discloses the proceedings data preparation means prepares proceedings data for displaying presentation data and material data presented in the same time period, on the same screen (Col 6, line 64 - Col 7, line 6).

Art Unit: 2153

11. Regarding claims 6, 11, 16, and 21, Schoof discloses the input/output means inputs memorandum data generated at a chairman terminal (conference controller) having the proceedings control function, of the attendant electronic equipments, and prepares time information indicating when the memorandum data is inputted, and the storage means associates the memorandum data with the time information and thus storing the memorandum data and the time information (complete archived record, Col 6, lines 64-65).

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record, in PTO-892 form, and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Reilly whose telephone number is 571-272-4228. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2153

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